the Women's Affiliated Colleges of Delaware, at Newark, Delaware.

ALBERT G. HOGAN, Ph.D. (Yale), has been appointed assistant in animal nutrition at the Kansas Agricultural Experiment station, Manhattan, Kansas.

AT the University of Indiana Dr. Kenneth P. Williams has been promoted from instructor to assistant professor of mathematics.

MISS SUSAN ROSE BENEDICT, Ph.D. (Michigan), has been made associate professor of mathematics at Smith College.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

TYPES OF BIRD GENERA LIMNOTHLYPIS NEW GENUS

SOME years ago in discussing the fixing of types for the genera of North American Birds the writer called attention in these columns to the fact that certain names would have to be changed if the principal of "type by subsequent designation" adopted by the International Zoological Congress were adopted. This view was opposed by Dr. J. A. Allen on the ground that in his interpretation of the Code a subsequent designation was not valid if the species designated was already the type of another genus. The point raised was one of such importance that it was placed before the International Commission for an opinion and this has just been rendered and the writer's stand has been endorsed. As the matter is one upon which many systematic workers have been in doubt, it seems desirable to call special attention to the decision.

Incidentally one genus of North American birds is left without a name by the operation of this ruling.

Helinaia Audubon, 1839, contained originally two species, the worm-eating warbler *H. vermivora* (Gm.) and Swainson's warbler, *H. swainsonii* (Aud.). The name has been used universally for the latter but the first designation of a type by Gray fixed it upon the former, and in spite of the fact that this was already the type of *Helmitheros* it thereby becomes the type of *Helinaia,* the latter name being thus a synonym of *Helmitheros* Rafinesque. As no other generic name is available for Swainson's warbler I would propose *Limnothlypis*[1] with *Sylvia swainsonii* Audubon as its type.

WITMER STONE

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES,
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MUTATION

IN a recent number of SCIENCE Professor Edward C. Jeffrey[1] raises objections to the concept mutation upon the ground that the phenomena in *Œnothera lamarckiana,* which de Vries described as mutation, are not mutation, this species being, as Bateson long ago suggested, a hybrid form. There seems to be about as much cogency in this argument as there would be in the claim that metagenesis is not a true concept because in *Salpa,* the form in which de Chamisso[2] first discovered it, it does not exist.[3]

The distinction between heritable variations (mutations, stable variations, "discontinuous"[4] variations) and non-heritable variations (fluctuating, unstable, "continuous"[4] variations) seems to be clearly established experimentally, and the interpretation of the former as germinal and the latter as somatic in origin, seems to have much in its favor.

Is not Professor Jeffrey's objection somewhat in the nature of a quibble?

MAYNARD M. METCALF

A NEW LOCALITY AND HORIZON FOR PENNSYLVANIAN VERTEBRATES

FINDS of Pennsylvania vertebrates are always interesting and important and are doubly

[1] λιμνη a marshy lake and θλυπις an ancient bird name.

[1] "The Mutation Myth," SCIENCE, XXXIX., No. 1005, April 3, 1914.

[2] A de Chamisso, "De animalibus quibusdum e classe Vermium linneana in circumnavigatione terrae," etc. Fasciculus primus, De Salpa. Berolini, 1891.

[3] W. K. Brooks, "Chamisso and the Discovery of Alternation of Generations," *Zool. Anzeiger,* Jahrg. 5, 1882.

[4] A poor term, for their heredity, not their degree of divergence from the parent stock, is the salient point.